



## **Resolution Supporting the Increase of Native American Representation in the Federal Judiciary**

**WHEREAS**, the Coalition of Bar Associations of Color (CBAC), organized in 1983, is a coalition created to act as a collective voice for issues of common concern to its member organizations; and

**WHEREAS**, the member organizations of the CBAC are the Hispanic National Bar Association (HNBA), the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA), the National Bar Association (NBA), and the National Native American Bar Association (NNABA); and

**WHEREAS**, given the undeniable authority that federal courts have over Native people and their lands, and that hundreds of cases are decided every year on issues of federal Indian law that effect the daily lives of American Indians, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians; and

**WHEREAS**, throughout the history of the federal courts, only two Native Americans have been appointed to the federal judiciary: Judge Frank Howell Seay, nominated in 1979 by President Carter, who assumed senior status in 2003; and Judge Billy Michael Burrage, nominated by President Clinton in 1994, who resigned his appointment in 2001; and

**WHEREAS**, there are 874 Article III federal judgeships in the United States—nine on the Supreme Court, 179 on the Courts of Appeals, 675 on the District Courts and nine on the Court of International Trade—and currently not one of these judgeships is held by an American Indian, Alaska Native, or Native Hawaiian judge; and

**WHEREAS**, despite the fact that dozens of qualified Native Americans (including some who serve or have served on tribal courts) are willing to serve on the federal bench, none have been confirmed.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the CBAC calls upon the President of the United States to nominate and to actively work with the Senate of the United States, in particular the Senate Judiciary Committee, to confirm qualified American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian candidates for the federal judiciary at the U.S. District Court, U.S. Circuit Courts of Appeals and the Supreme Court of the United States; and

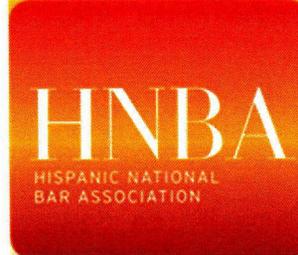
**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the CBAC authorizes the communication of the content of this resolution to members of the U.S. Senate, members of the U.S. House of Representatives, the press, and to others the CBAC deems appropriate to receive the information; and

**CERTIFICATION**

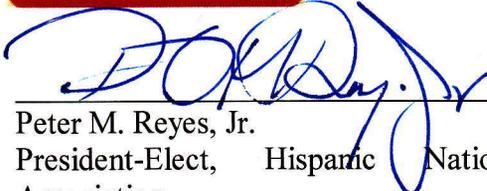
We, the duly elected leadership of the Hispanic National Bar Association, the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association, the National Bar Association, and the National Native American Bar Association, hereby certify that this resolution was duly enacted by the CBAC at its annual meeting on the 16th of May 2012.

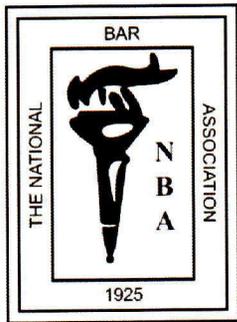


National Asian Pacific American Bar Association



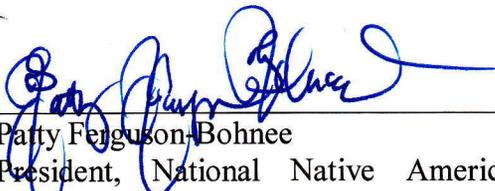
  
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Nimesh Patel  
President, National Asian Pacific American Bar Association

  
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Peter M. Reyes, Jr.  
President-Elect, Hispanic National Bar Association



  
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Daryl Parks  
President, National Bar Association



  
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Patty Ferguson Bohnce  
President, National Native American Bar Association